

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL  
JANUARY 18, 2006

Participants:

Dean Ellis, Idaho Falls  
Dave Davis – Rexburg  
Shannon Crays – Emmett  
David Stonhill – INL  
Steve Donahue – Star  
Dick Hahn – (Mark Larson)  
Mark Grimes – Buhl  
Bret Campbell – Teton County  
Don Gardner – (Mike Lee)

Jim Eavenson – (Bill Reese)  
Kurt Houston - IDL  
Doug Brown - Caldwell  
Ann Stephens – PTE  
Burton Waite - EST  
Jerry Schroeder - EST  
Jerry Settle - EST  
Marsha Boston - EST

1. **Welcome** – Shannon Crays welcomed and did the roll call of participants.
2. **Review of Minutes of Last Meeting** – there were no additions or corrections to the minutes.
3. **Discussion of future plans of certification program and regular scheduled testing events.** Jerry Settle reported that the testing has doubled since last year with 138 skills tests and 112 FFI and FFII tests so far this year. There have been 18 in the Driver Operator program also this year. Jerry Schroeder suggested that we need some changes because of testing “creep”. This is when individuals do not test when scheduled, and then want another test scheduled at their convenience. EST has been discussing moving to a regular schedule of testing by region around the state so that the fire departments could then schedule their training to coincide with the testing event. We need to address live fire testing because we are not meeting the standards of NFPA 1001. The testing would be on a quarterly or semi annual basis depending on the demand for the testing. Dave Davis said that this would put some of the responsibility on the fire departments for their training schedules. Schroeder answered yes to Dave Stonhill's question if there were large numbers to be tested if there could be special testing events scheduled. Jerry Schroeder said that we will need to schedule and then run with it to see if it will work satisfactorily. One of the issues that need to be dealt with is the Host Department capabilities. We will have to identify the host sites that can test all of the skills that we have. Discussion followed about live-fire testing at INL and Jerry and Dave Stonhill will have further conversation about this issue. The idea of rotation of manpower and apparatus with a contingency plan within the region was thought to be a very realistic approach to test hosting.
4. **Update on fire database rollout** – Burton stated that the new fire database has gone “live” for the EST staff and he feels that it is going well. The concept is that the fire departments will be able to request training and testing online. Burton is in the process of opening it up to the secondary institutions and will let the fire departments know when it will be available for them to use.
5. **Instructor Development** – EST is moving to a regional concept for the instructor conference and expanding the mentoring process which needs to be formalized. It was agreed that travel was a large concern for the fire departments. G-265 and the other instructor training classes will still be offered. Burton said that we need specific instructors in specific regions and we will do the training in these areas which will reduce the travel. Schroeder said that one

of his greatest problems is qualifying in-house instructors for their department's Essentials program. He wanted input into how EST assures quality of instruction. It was suggested that we use a Master instructor standard. Burton said that he and Jerry Schroeder will draft some concepts on the master instructor plans and will share with the Advisory Committee at the next meeting. It was agreed that this include Evaluators. Mark Grimes said that IEM already had qualifications for master instructors and we should look at this.

6. Other –
  - a. Steve Donahue will send the Advisory Committee the results of his Instructor survey.
  - b. David Stonhill wanted to know if there was a plan from IFSAC for certification of fire departments. Jerry Schroeder stated that he was not aware of any plan to certify fire departments by IFSAC. Doug Brown stated that the Commission on Fire Accreditation International has a program to accredit fire departments and Caldwell had been checking into it.
7. Next Meeting Time – Wednesday, April 19, 2006, 9:00 AM – Division of Professional-Technical Education Conference Room.